



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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CHAIR NESTOR GARCIA ORGANIZES COUNCIL FOR 2011

Honolulu City Council Chair Nestor Garcia today announced his leadership team and committee leaders which will take effect after the swearing in of council members January 3, 2011. Garcia has received majority support from the returning and incoming council members to continue as leader of the City Council.

"I am honored and humbled by this privilege," Garcia said. "My pledge is to provide stability so the Council can do its work efficiently and at the same time to raise the bar in terms of our effectiveness and fiscal accountability to the people."

"There are so many difficult issues in the months ahead that I wanted to give everyone a working understanding of what the new Council structure will be. It will also give both returning and incoming council members important preparation and planning time," Garcia said. "We must hit the ground running in order to work effectively with Mayor Peter Carlisle and his administration."

Councilmember-elect Breene Harimoto will serve as vice chair while veteran legislator and councilmember Romy Cachola is being tapped for floor leader.

"Breene Harimoto served on the staff of Councilmember Gary Okino and knows the district very well. Besides benefiting from Okino's considerable experience and knowledge, he also was chair of the state Board of Education, so he understands the duties and responsibilities of leading an elected body," Garcia added.

"I will also ask him to chair a very important committee -- Transportation & Transit Planning. As we move forward on the rail project, I believe he will bring Okino's 40-plus years of planning experience with him. That will be critical to rail's success," Garcia said.

In addition to his duties as floor leader, Garcia said Cachola will also chair the committee on Executive Matters & Legal Affairs "because it is one of the most demanding committees on the Council dealing with legal issues and settlements and Romy brings a wealth of legal expertise and legislative experience to help us handle our affairs."

(more)

Garcia said the committee leaders will be as follows:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Vice Chair</u>
Budget	Ernest Y. Martin	Tulsi Gabbard-Tamayo
Executive Matters & Legal Affairs	Romy M. Cachola	Breene Y. Harimoto
Parks & Human Services	Council District I	J. Ikaika Anderson
Planning	Ann Kobayashi	Council District I
Public Works & Sustainability	Stanley Chang	Ann Kobayashi
Safety, Economic Development & Government Affairs	Tulsi Gabbard-Tamayo	Stanley Chang
Transportation & Transit Planning	Breene Y. Harimoto	Ernest Y. Martin
Zoning	J. Ikaika Anderson	Romy M. Cachola
Committee of the Whole	Nestor R. Garcia	Breene Y. Harimoto

Garcia said the winner of the Special Election to complete the term of the resigned former Chair, Todd Apo (Council District I) should be known on or soon after December 29.

"I will thoroughly examine the strengths, experiences, and new energy of all council members as we move to fill out the committees," he said. "I'd like to accommodate all of their individual preferences if possible, but in the end, the decision has to be based on what is best for the City & County of Honolulu."

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